

1855 Le Verrier made proposals for an international weather service. Norway was greatly interested in the new movement, and in 1860 C. Nielsen, director of telegraphs in Norway, established five stations along the coast—Christiansund, Aalesund, Skudenes, Mandal, and Sandøysund—with the necessary instruments and staff. At these stations observations were made three times daily of pressure, temperature, humidity, wind, weather, and cloud. A short time later an inland station was established at Dombaas, and reports were exchanged between these stations and Sweden, and also, after a few years, with Paris.

The six stations were soon found to be insufficient for the proper development of meteorological work in Norway, and in 1865 it was resolved to erect a meteorological institute and to appoint a professor of meteorology. The institute was commenced, and in 1865 Henrik Mohn was appointed professor of meteorology and director of the meteorological institute. New instruments were installed at the existing stations, and on December 1, 1866, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute began its operations, with the cooperation of the six stations mentioned and also of Bergen and Christiania.

Prof. Mohn's initiative soon resulted in great developments. The number of climatological stations was rapidly increased; in 1871 there were 55, in 1898, 80. The collection of rainfall statistics also interested Prof. Mohn greatly, and by 1890 he had established nearly 100 stations. In 1895 the number reached about 300, and a few years later 500 stations reported rainfall to the institute.

The international exchange of telegrams was also developed. As early as 1869 telegrams were received from Great Britain. Denmark commenced in 1871, Sweden in 1873; Russia, Finland, Germany, and France began in 1892, and the Faroe Islands in 1907. Spitzbergen, Austria-Hungary, and Italy joined in 1912, followed in 1913 by Holland, Spain, Portugal, and Madeira.

Meanwhile the telegraphic reporting of observations from Norwegian stations was increased. By 1892, 33 stations reported by telegraph, while by 1914 the number had increased to 69.

Services of storm warnings and forecasts were commenced early in the history of the institute. The reports and publications were organized and developed, and the volume gives diagrammatic representations of the growth of the institute's reporting stations, staff, budget, and library.

Aerology received much attention at the beginning of the present century. Sounding balloons were sent up, and in 1909 pilot balloon ascents were begun. In 1912 this part of the work was taken over by Prof. V. Bjerknes, and it is now carried on by the observatory at Aas.

Notes are given on the past and present members of the staff of the institute and detailed descriptions of the growth and work of each of the three sections dealing with climatology, forecasting, and rainfall respectively. The establishment and work of the observatories at Aas, Bergen, and Haldde are described, and the book is illustrated by interesting photographs of the institute and observatories and by reproductions of charts and diagrams.

FREQUENCY OF SNOW IN TRIPOLI AND ALGERIA.

[Reprinted from Nature, London, Jan. 3, 1918, 100: 350.]

Prof. Filippo Eredia has recently published in the *Bollettino d'Informazione* of the Italian colonial office a useful note on the frequency of snow in Tripoli and in

Algeria. In the last-named country, at sea level, snow is rare, since only one fall in the whole year may be expected. At a height of 600 meters, 6 falls per annum occur on the average, while at double this elevation, 25 falls are experienced. In Algeria and Tunisia the most frequent and extensive snowfalls occurred in the winter of 1890-91, while 1884, 1904-5, 1913, and 1915 were also characterized by abundant snowfalls. Some interesting photographs are given of snow scenes in Tripoli during the snowstorms of February, 1913, and February, 1915.

"PRAYING" PALM TREE OF FARIDPUR.

[Reprinted from Nature, London, Mar. 28, 1918, 101: 70.]

The [Indian?] *Pioneer Mail* of January 11 reports a lecture by Sir J. C. Bose on "The Praying Palm Tree" of Faridpur. While the temple bells call the people to evening prayer this tree has recently been seen to bow down in prostration and to erect its head on the following morning. Large numbers of pilgrims have been attracted to the place, and offerings to the tree are said to have been the means of effecting marvelous cures. Sir J. C. Bose first procured photographs which proved the phenomenon to be real. The next step was to devise a special apparatus to record continuously the movement of the tree by day and night. The records showed that it fell with the rise of temperature and rose with the fall. The records obtained in the case of other trees brought out the fact that all the trees are moving, each movement being due to changes in their environment.

"SUMMER TIME" IN 1918.

[From Nature, London, Mar. 14, 1918, 101: 27.]

Summer time began in France and Italy on March 10; it begins in Great Britain on March 24, and will begin in Holland on April 1. The dates on which summer time ends are also different in different countries. However, much "daylight saving" by alteration of clocks may be appreciated by the public, there can be no doubt that the varying dates adopted for the beginning and ending of the change of standard are most confusing, and will render it very difficult to determine the exact instant at which any records of observations of natural occurrences are made.

RUSSIA ADOPTS THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR.

[From Nature, London, Feb. 21, 1918, 100: 488.]

We learn from a message from the Petrograd correspondent of the *Times*, published in the issue of February 20, that the abolition of the Julian calendar and the substitution of the reformed, or Gregorian, calendar has been formally announced by the Government of the People's Councils. "Attempts from the time of Peter the Great to effect this reform have always failed through ecclesiastical opposition, but now that the Orthodox Church has been divorced from the State its opinions and traditions are entirely ignored."

DIURNAL VARIATION OF ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

[Abstract reprinted from Nature, London, May 30, 1918, 101: 253-254.]

The effect of geographical latitude on the semidiurnal wave of atmospheric pressure is fairly regular and well marked, but the variation of the diurnal wave has at-